



H.Res. 942 – Recognizing the significance of Black History Month

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 942 is being considered on the House floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Al Green (D-TX) on January 28, 2008. The House Committee Oversight and Government Reform agreed to the resolution on January 29, 2008 by voice vote.

H.Res. 942 is expected to be considered on the House floor on February 6, 2008.

BACKGROUND

In 1976, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History recognized the month of February to be Black History Month. This month is dedicated to the remembrance and study of African American history.

Black History Month became an expansion of Negro History Week, which was established by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926. Dr. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which was later named the Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

Dr. Woodson established the February week which recognized the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass to be Negro History Week in 1926. Negro History Week was later expanded into Black History Month in 1976.

Dr. Woodson was born in New Canton, Virginia to former slaves, and was an African American historian, journalist, and author whose works went toward expanding awareness of African American History. He died in 1950.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 942 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- recognizes the significance of Black History Month as an important time to recognize the contributions of African-Americans in the Nation's history, and encourages the continued celebration of this month to provide an opportunity for all peoples of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and
- Recognizes that the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States enriches and strengthens the Nation.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at (202) 226-2302.